

## When to Use the CDO: A Special Note for Evening Law Students

As an evening student, you may have different considerations that affect your career planning. The first issue to think about is whether or not to seek legal experience while in law school. If you choose not to develop legal experience in law school, there are still ways to prepare yourself for a legal career after graduation. Please speak with your Career Counselor to discuss those options in more detail.

If you do want to build legal experience during law school, here are some common approaches:

### **If You Are Able to Leave Your Current Position:**

- During or after your first year of law school, obtain a full-time legal/law clerk position and keep it until you graduate – ideally with an employer you might like to work for after you graduate. This option can be especially useful for students with technical backgrounds who want to pursue careers in patent law, because many IP firms employ law students with technical backgrounds during the academic year.
- Alternatively, you can obtain a full-time law clerk position during or after your first year of law school and keep it until you graduate, but work for different legal employers during the summers.

### **If You Are Not Able to Leave Your Current Position:**

- Stay in your current position, but take sabbaticals from your current job so that you can work during the summers after your 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd years of law school. *It is especially important to work for a legal employer during the summer before your final year of law school.*